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REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action of February 20, 2008, applicants ask that all claims be allowed in view of the following remarks. Claims 1, 3-22, 24-26, 28, 30-33, and 35-38 are pending, with claims 1, 11, 22, and 28 being independent.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-21, and 35-37

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 9, 11-16, 19, 20, and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0046296 (Doss) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,820,204 (Desai). Claims 6, 7, 17, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Doss in view of Desai further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6, 560,637 (Dunlap). Claims 10, 21, 36, and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Doss in view of Desai further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,111,232 (Bascom). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3-21, and 35-37 because none of Doss, Desai, or any proper combination of Doss and Desai describes or suggests all of the subject matter recited in independent claims 1 and 11.

Independent claim 1 recites a computer program product that includes instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to display an instant messaging graphical user interface that has a single window that includes both a contacts list and a file list. As recited in independent claim 1, the contacts list is configured to make online presence information for other listed users perceivable and to enable a user to initiate communication sessions with the other listed users and the file list lists a collection of computer files, including one or more computer files that the user has uploaded and stored on an instant messaging host system.

As discussed in greater detail below, the final Office Action fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness at least because the combination of Doss and Desai does not yield an instant messaging graphical interface having a single window that includes both a contacts list and a file list, let alone a single window that includes a contacts list that is configured to make

online presence information for other listed users perceivable and to enable a user to initiate communication sessions with the other listed users and a file list that lists a collection of computer files, including one or more computer files that the user has uploaded and stored on an instant messaging host system, as recited in independent claim 1.

Doss describes a system that provides "calendar-enhanced" presence and contact information for instant messaging users. See, e.g., Doss at paragraph [0002]. More particularly, Doss teaches providing information regarding an individual's schedule from an electronic calendar application to an instant messaging system so that the instant messaging system can provide enhanced presence and contact information for the individual to other users of the instant messaging system. See, e.g., Doss at paragraphs [0015]-[0017].

For example, based on information provided to the instant messaging system from the electronic calendar application, Doss' instant messaging system may be able to inform other users of the instant messaging system that the individual is in the individual's office or that the individual is in a meeting. See, e.g., Doss at paragraphs [0015]-[0017]. In addition, Doss' instant messaging system also may be able to inform other users of the instant messaging system of the best communication modality for use in contacting the individual based on the activity in which the individual currently is engaged. See, e.g., Doss at paragraphs [0015]-[0017]. For example, the instant messaging system may inform users that it currently is best to contact the individual via the individual's cell phone or that it currently is best to contact the individual via the individual's pager. See, e.g., Doss at paragraphs [0015]-[0017].

Referring to FIGS. 7-11, Doss discloses that a user of Doss' instant messaging system may access "calendar-enhanced" presence and contact information for an individual listed in the user's instant messaging contacts list by "mousing over" the individual's screen name in the user's instant messaging contacts list. See, e.g., Doss at paragraph [0058] and FIGS. 7-11. Importantly, Doss teaches that, when a user "mouses over" an individual's screen name in the user's instant messaging contacts list, the "calendar-enhanced" presence and contact information for the individual is displayed in a pop-up window, which necessarily differs from the window within which the user's instant messaging contacts list is displayed. See, e.g., Doss at paragraph [0058] and FIGS. 7-11. Referring to FIG. 12, Doss also discloses an electronic status board that provides, among other information, status information for users of Doss' system. See, e.g., Doss

at paragraphs [0065]-[0066]. As described by Doss, the status information presented in the electronic status board is static and not capable of being updated. See, e.g., Doss at paragraphs [0065]-[0066]. Furthermore, and importantly, the electronic status board is not an instant messaging contacts list that is configured to enable a user to initiate communication sessions with the users listed in the electronic status board.

The final Office Action acknowledges that Doss does not include a file list listing a collection of computer files, including one or more computer files that the user has uploaded and stored on an instant messaging host system, as recited in independent claim 1. See final Office Action of February 20, 2008 at page 3, lines 18-19. For this deficiency in Doss, the final Office Action relies on Desai. See final Office Action of February 20, 2008 at page 4, lines 5-6.

Desai describes an information exchange system that provides each user of the information exchange system with granular control over which other users of the system may access information and files stored in the user's profile. See Desai at col. 3, lines 35-41. As described by Desai, the information exchange system allows a user to upload files to a storage system; to copy, move, delete, or otherwise manage files or folders; to share a file with another user; to download files from the storage system; and to view files that have been shared by other users. See, e.g., Desai at col. 26, lines 1-16.

The final Office Action suggests that the combination of Doss and Desai yields an instant messaging graphical interface having a single window that includes both a contacts list that is configured to make online presence information for other listed users perceivable and to enable a user to initiate communication sessions with the other listed users and a file list that lists a collection of computer files, including one or more computer files that the user has uploaded and stored on an instant messaging host system, as recited in independent claim 1. In addition, the final Office Action contends that an individual of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teachings of Doss and Desai as proposed by the final Office Action "in order to facilitate file sharing or modification as required." Final Office Action of February 20, 2008 at page 4, lines 11-12.

As an initial matter, applicants note that there is no suggestion in Doss or Desai that would have motivated an individual of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Doss and Desai as proposed by the final Office Action, nor does the final Office Action contend that

either of Doss or Desai includes such a suggestion. Moreover, putting aside the absence of any motivation to combine the teachings of Doss and Desai as proposed by the final Office Action, Doss, Desai and the combination of Doss with Desai each fail to yield a single window that includes both a contacts list that is configured to make online presence information for other listed users perceivable and to enable a user to initiate communication sessions with the other listed users and a file list that lists a collection of computer files, including one or more computer files that the user has uploaded and stored on an instant messaging host system, as recited in independent claim 1.

As discussed above, Doss teaches displaying "calendar-enhanced" presence and contact information for an individual listed in a user's instant messaging contacts list in a pop-up window that is separate from the window within which the user's instant messaging contacts list is displayed. See, e.g., Doss at paragraph [0058] and FIGS. 7-11. That is to say, Doss teaches supplementing a user's instant messaging contacts list by presenting supplemental information in a pop-up window that is separate from the user's instant messaging contacts list. As such, when Doss is combined with any other reference for the purpose of providing information that is in addition to the information presented in Doss' instant messaging contacts list, Doss teaches that such additional information will be displayed in a pop-up window that is separate from Doss' instant messaging contacts list.

Therefore, putting aside the absence of any motivation to combine Doss and Desai, any proper combination of Doss and Desai would result in, at most, the display of information related to files uploaded to Desai's storage system in a pop-up window that is separate from the window within which Doss' instant messaging contacts list is displayed. Consequently, any proper combination of Doss and Desai fails to describe or suggest a single window that includes both a contacts list that is configured to make online presence information for other listed users perceivable and to enable a user to initiate communication sessions with the other listed users and a file list that lists a collection of computer files, including one or more computer files that the user has uploaded and stored on an instant messaging host system, as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims, claims 3-10.[1] Independent claim 11 recites features that are similar to those discussed above in connection with independent claim 1 and does so in the context of a method. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with amended independent claim 1, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 11 and its dependent claims, claims 12-21 and 35-37.[2]

Claims 22 and 24-26

Independent claim 22 has been rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of Bascom, and claims 24-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Doss in view of Bascom further in view of Dunlap. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 22 and 24-26 because none of Doss, Bascom, or any proper combination of Doss and Bascom describes or suggests all of the features recited in independent claim 22.

Independent claim 22 recites a computer program product that includes instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to, among other features, display an instant messaging graphical user interface that includes a contacts list listing one or more other users of the instant messaging service and a links list listing one or more links to web pages that have been selected by the user for inclusion in the links list, receive an indication of a selection by the user of a particular link to a web page from the links list, and trigger invocation of a web browser and

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[1] Dependent claims 6 and 7, which depend from independent claim 1, were rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of Desai further in view of Dunlap. In addition, dependent claim 10, which also depends from independent claim 1, was rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of Desai further in view of Bascom. Neither Dunlap nor Bascom cures the deficiencies noted in Doss and Desai above, nor does the Office Action contend that either of Dunlap or Bascom does so. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 6, 7, and 10 at least because of their dependencies and for the reasons discussed above in connection with independent claim 1.

[2] Dependent claims 17 and 18, which depend from independent claim 11, were rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of Desai further in view of Dunlap. In addition, dependent claims 21, 36, and 37, which also depend from independent claim 11, were rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of Desai further in view of Bascom. However, neither Dunlap nor Bascom cures the deficiencies noted in Doss and Desai above, nor does the Office Action contend that either of Dunlap or Bascom does so. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 17, 18, 21, 36, and 37 at least because of their dependencies and for the reasons discussed above in connection with independent claim 1.

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cause the web page corresponding to the particular link to be rendered within the web browser in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the particular link if the web browser is not presently invoked when the indication of the selection of the particular link is received.

The Office Action acknowledges that Doss does not describe or suggest a computer program product that includes instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to receive an indication of a selection by a user of a particular link to a web page from the links list, and trigger invocation of a web browser and cause the web page corresponding to the particular link to be rendered within the web browser in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the particular link if the web browser is not presently invoked when the indication of the selection of the particular link is received, as recited in independent claim 22. See final Office Action of February 20, 2008 at page 13, lines 5-10. For this deficiency in Doss, the final Office Action relies on Bascom. See final Office Action of February 20, 2008 at page 19-24.

Bascom describes a system that provides an Internet user that currently is accessing a particular web page with a selection of links to other web pages that other users of the system have identified as being related to the particular web page that the Internet user currently is accessing. Bascom at col. 3, lines 4-40. As described by Bascom, the system:

> allows a network user to be presented with a selection of links to document objects [e.g., web pages] related to the document object [e.g., web page] the user is currently accessing based upon the URL of the current document object [e.g., web page], and link relationships created by the user and other users of the network stored in the link directories.

Bascom at col. 3, lines 13-20 (emphasis added). For example, referring to FIG. 10 of Bascom (reproduced below), when a user of Bascom's system uses a web browser to navigate to a particular web page, the particular web page may be presented to the user in a browser window (1030) and a selection of links to other web pages that other users of Bascom's system have identified as being related to the particular web page may be presented in a link reference display window (1020):
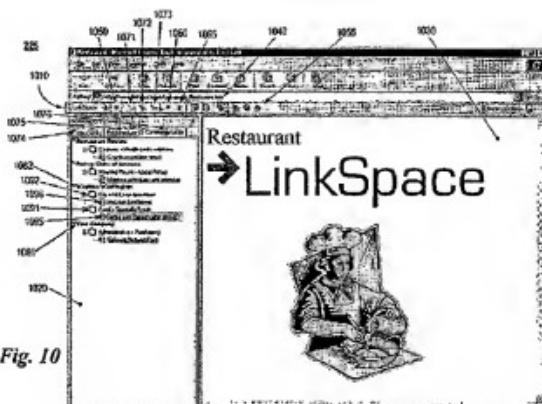
Reproduction of Bascom FIG. 10

Importantly, Bascom describes providing an Internet user with a selection of links to web pages that have been identified as being related to a web page that the Internet user currently is accessing _after_ the Internet user's web browser already has been invoked. Indeed, it is clear that the Internet user's web browser must be invoked before the selection of links to web pages related to the web page currently being accessed are presented to the Internet user because the Internet user's web browser must be invoked in order for the Internet user to be accessing a web page in the first place. Consequently, like Doss, Bascom does not describe or suggest a computer program product that includes instructions that, when executed, cause a computer to trigger invocation of a web browser and cause a web page corresponding to a particular link to be rendered within the web browser in response to receiving an indication of a selection of the particular link to the web page from a links list _if the web browser is not presently invoked when the indication of the selection of the particular link is received_, as recited in independent claim

22. Accordingly, for at least this reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 22 and its dependent claims, claims 24-26.[3]

Claims 28, 30-33, and 38

Claims 28, 32, 33, and 38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Doss in view of Bascom further in view of Dunlap, and claims 30 and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Doss in view of Bascom further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,725,269 (Megiddo).[4] Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 28, 30-33, and 38 because none of Doss, Bascom, Dunlap, or any proper combination thereof describes or suggests all of the features recited in independent claim 28.

Independent claim 28 recites a method that includes, among other features, displaying an instant messaging graphical user interface that includes a contacts list listing one or more other users of the instant messaging service and a links list listing one or more links to web pages that have been selected by the user for inclusion in the links list, receiving an indication of a selection by the user of a particular link to a web page from the links list, and invoking the web browser and causing the web page corresponding to the particular link to be rendered within the web browser in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the particular link if the web browser is not presently invoked when the indication of the selection of the particular link is received.

As discussed above, neither Doss nor Bascom describes or suggests invoking a web browser and causing a web page corresponding to a particular link to be rendered within the web browser in response to receiving an indication of a selection of the particular link to the web page from a links list if the web browser is not presently invoked when the indication of the

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[3] Dependent claims 24-26, which depend from independent claim 22, were rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of Bascom further in view of Dunlap. Dunlap does not cure the deficiencies noted in Doss and Bascom above, nor does the Office Action contend that Dunlap does so. Accordingly, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 24-26 at least because of their dependencies and for the reasons discussed above in connection with independent claim 22.

[4] Dependent claims 30 and 31 depend from independent claim 28, which has been rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of Bascom further in view of Dunlap. Therefore, because dependent claims 30 and 31 depend from independent claim 28, applicants understand dependent claims 30 and 31 as having been rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of Bascom in view of Dunlap further in view of Megiddo, even though the Office Action only indicates that dependent claims 30 and 31 have been rejected as being obvious over Doss in view of Bascom further in view of Megiddo.

selection of the particular link is received, as recited in independent claim 28. Dunlap, which
describes a presentation system that enables a presenter to distribute and present a presentation to
remote users over a computer network, also does not describe or suggest this feature of
independent claim 28, nor does the Office Action contend that Dunlap does so as this feature of
independent claim 28. Accordingly, for at least this reason, applicants request reconsideration
and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 28 and its dependent claims, claims 30-33
and 38.[5]

Dependent claim 38, which depends from independent claim 28, recites that the contacts
list includes a screen name associated with a particular other user and that receiving, from the
user, a request to share another link listed in the links list with a particular other user listed in the
contacts list includes receiving an indication that the user dragged-and-dropped the other link
from the links list onto the screen name associated with the particular other user included within
the contacts list. The final Office Action applies Bascom for teaching that receiving a request to
share another link listed in the links list with a particular other user listed in the contacts list
includes receiving an indication that the user dragged-and-dropped the other link from the links
list onto the screen name associated with the particular other user included within the contacts
list. See final Office Action of February 20, 2008 at page 18, lines 13-16.

However, while the applied portion of Bascom describes performing a drag-and-drop
operation, it describes doing so in order to define a relationship between similar web pages, not
in order to share a link with another user. Furthermore, the applied portion of Bascom does not
describe or suggest dragging and dropping a link from a links list onto a screen name in a
contacts list. Therefore, the applied portion of Bascom fails to describe or suggest that receiving
a request to share another link listed in the links list with a particular other user listed in the
contacts list includes receiving an indication that the user dragged-and-dropped the other link
from the links list onto the screen name associated with the particular other user included within

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[5] Dependent claims 30 and 31, which depend from independent claim 28, were rejected as being obvious over Doss
in view of Bascom in view of Dunlap further in view of Megiddo. Megiddo does not cure the deficiencies noted in
Doss, Bascom and Dunlap above, nor does the Office Action contend that Megiddo does so. Accordingly,
applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 30 and 31 at least because of
their dependencies and for the reasons discussed above in connection with independent claim 28.

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the contacts list, as recited in dependent claim 38. Accordingly, for at least this additional reason, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claim 38.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

No fees are believed due at this time. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _April 21, 2008_
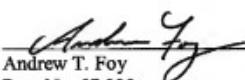
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